

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Remy

OFFERING: Akinola

WORD: Pastor

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you, if you are worshipping with us for the first time. We believe you've become a member of our church family by God's grace.

Please ensure you speak to the Pastor or one of today's facilitators before you leave.

May God bless you richly (Amen).

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV)

THEME FOR THE YEAR

Our theme this year is to **enlarge and build better (Isaiah 54:2-3)**, and by God's grace, we're trusting that the boundary lines will fall for us in pleasant places (Amen).

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you could join most of our services online when **you are unable to attend?** Talk to the technical team or visit our website to find out how.



Sunday 31 July 2022

WELCOME

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bethel

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

Make a conscious effort to surround yourself with positive, nourishing, and **UPLIFTING PEOPLE**— people who believe in you, encourage you to go after your dreams, and applaud your victories.

— Jack Gangfield

Image source(s): <https://twitter.com/hsunderh/status/1035453192384008193>

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

RCCG Bethel Parish

Unit 13, Skylines Village
Limeharbour, London E14 9TS
PHONE: 07889906677 || EMAIL: admin@rccgbethel.church
WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



Home Our Focus About us Contact Us Sermons Privacy Policy



Our website is a treasure trove of information, and not only about our focus and mission. You could subscribe to our podcast or listen to past sermons too (<http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/>). This is particularly useful for when you are unable to attend services or for refreshing your recollection as an essential part of your private Bible study.

There's more! Details of events and outreach will almost certainly be available from relevant pages on our website and updated regularly, along with downloadable copies of our Sunday bulletins (<http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/>).

So, why don't you set our homepage as one of your **startup page(s)** in your browser now? The following instructions for most of the common browsers may help.

Google Chrome

1. Open the browser and the **Settings** menu (or the **three vertical dots** to the right of the menu bar).
2. Scroll down and click on **Advanced Settings**.
3. Select **Open a specific page or set of pages** under **On Startup**.
4. Select **Set pages** and enter or add <http://rccgbethel.church/>.

Mozilla Firefox

1. Open Firefox. Press **Alt-T** on the keyboard and select **Options** from the drop-down menu or go to **Tools >> Options** from the main menu.
2. In the **Home** section, select **Homepage and new windows** and **Custom URLs...** from the field's drop down.
3. Enter or paste the URL: <http://rccgbethel.church/> or click **Use Current Page** if you are already on our website.

Microsoft Edge

1. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar.
2. Select **Settings** and select **A Specific Page or Pages** from the **Open Microsoft Edge With** section drop down options.
3. Enter <http://rccgbethel.church/>. (Click the Plus sign to add more pages if required).
4. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar again to close **Settings** menu.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Support systems

Text: Colossians 4:7-18

Many of us will be grateful if there's someone praying hard and earnestly on our behalf. We may also think of Paul as someone with intense focus, a hard man and a lone ranger. He once shook off a thorough beaten. After they left him for dead, he just got up and returned to the same city (Acts 14:19-20). He boasts of being hungry and suffering for Christ (2 Cor 11:16-33).

Paul comes across as strong and confident, but the main reason he's so successful is the support structure around him. He may be single, but he was almost always never alone. In fact, the first thing he does when he gets to a place is to look for local Christians to partner with him, gather them around himself. They soon become his support structure. It may be useful to ask ourselves why we believe what we believe.

The French mathematician and philosopher, René Descartes did and considered why we should believe in God and theorises that if any of us dies, life goes on, but it is necessary to believe in a being without whom no one and nothing else can exist (John 1:1-3). Descartes concluded: "I think, therefore I am." It sounds like he was trying to assure himself that he exists.

Alone, it is hard to get far or resist questioning our own existence. Paul understood the concept that motivated God to create Eve from Adam at the beginning, that it wasn't good for man to be alone (Gen 2:18). We may find on reflection that several supports at various points in our lives may have been instrumental in helping us to succeed. They may even been our saving grace once or twice, when we're weak or in the darkest challenges we face. God's help is invaluable, but the support systems he places around us are crucial to him working effectively in our lives.

One of the devils key weapon is to make us feel we're all alone and there's no help. Contrast Elijah and Elisha. While Elijah was a loner, Elisha learned to build a support structure around himself (2 Kn 6:1-7). No wonder Elijah thought he was the only prophet left when Ahab and Jezebel was seeking to kill him until God pointed out the error in his thinking (1 Kn 19:10-18).

We must always seek and be sensitive to the people God will bring our way to support and encourage us. They're sources of hope for us and may or may not be Christians. We should never negate their influence or God's ability to use them to improve our lives. In fact, the church is created to be a support system for believers (Heb 10:25). Elisha's life illustrated this and even when it seems he's alone, there was a host of heaven fighting for him (2 Kn 6:15-23).

Paul felt deserted by Demas and others at some point, but there were others like Luke and he instructed Timothy to bring more as well as his books (2 Tim 4:9-18). For Paul, information from those books was part of his support systems and that's true for us too as the bible tells us (Hos 4:6; Isa 5:13; Prov 4:5-9; 2 Cor 2:11; 2 Tim 2:15). However, God was with Paul too and he knew it. He also charged us to remember his chains and not forget his suffering (Col 4:18). We must remember them too and continue to pray for them, even when we're not sure what we can do.

Bottom line:

Some may revel in aloneness or solitude. God didn't create us to be alone. We must seek to add positive influences to our support system and remember those in chains for their belief.